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SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER SURVEYS WITHIN VR-176

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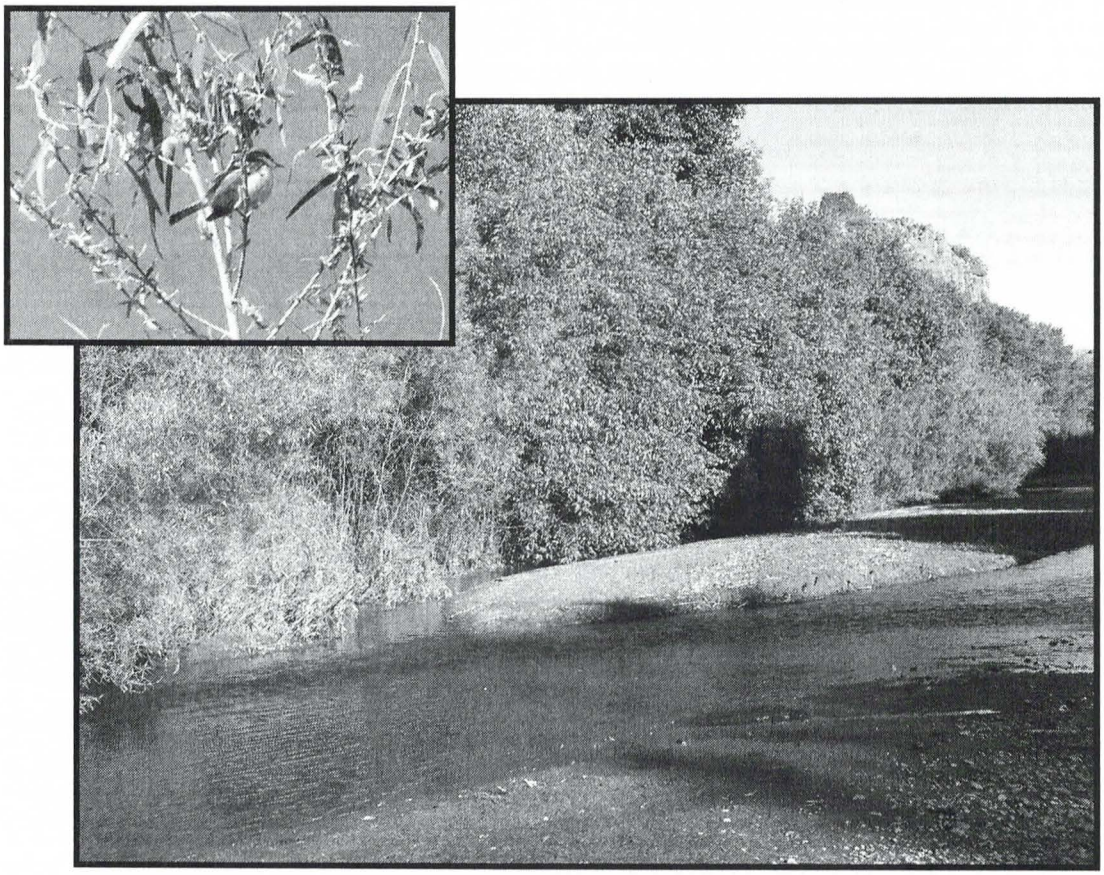

2007 FINAL REPORT TO GEO-MARINE, INC.

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SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER SURVEYS WITHIN VR-176

2007 FINAL REPORT TO GEO-MARINE, INC.

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2713 Magruder Blvd., Suite D
Hampton, VA 23666

Agreement Number:
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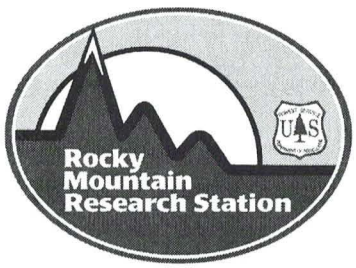

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INTRODUCTION

The Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*; 'Southwestern Willow Flycatcher' or 'flycatcher') is a Neotropical migrant landbird that winters from southern Mexico to northern South America and breeds from southern California and Baja California eastward through Arizona, southern Utah, southern Colorado, New Mexico, and Trans-Pecos Texas (Sedgwick 2000). During the breeding season, the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher is restricted to nesting in dense riparian vegetation that is almost always in the vicinity of surface water or saturated soils (McKernan 1997, Finch 1999, Sedgwick 2000, USFWS 2002). Similar to many other riparian obligate bird species, flycatcher breeding populations have declined significantly over the last century due to nest parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) and extensive loss, modification, and fragmentation of riparian breeding habitats (Marshall and Stoleson 2000, USFWS 2002), and, in 1995, the US Fish and Wildlife Service listed the flycatcher as endangered (USFWS 1995).

Despite widespread declines in populations and degradation of native riparian breeding habitat, the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher is abundant in southwestern New Mexico along the Gila River. Not only has the Gila River drainage historically supported more breeding Southwestern Willow Flycatchers than any other major drainage in the seven southwestern states (Sogge et al. 2002), but riparian areas along the reach of the Gila River flowing near Cliff, New Mexico support one of the largest known populations of the flycatcher[1] (Sedgwick 2000, USFWS 2002). Average nesting success within the Cliff-Gila population is high (Stoleson and Finch 1999) and, as a result, this population has grown substantially since it was first surveyed, from 81 pairs in 1994 (Parker and Hull 1994) to an estimated 141 pairs in 2006 (Brodhead pers. comm.). Although numbers declined after a peak (247 pairs) was documented in 1999, probably due to drought in the region, it is possible that the Cliff-Gila flycatcher population will continue to grow and expand in the future.

Active and potential flycatcher breeding sites along the Gila River lie within the military training flight path VR-176, used by military aircraft of the United States Air Force Air Combat Command (ACC), German Air Force, and Air National Guard in low-level training flights. As military jet aircraft overflight could adversely affect several threatened and endangered bird species that inhabit land beneath the flight path, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion (BO) on May 8, 1998 that requires survey and monitoring of locations beneath the airspace for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and three other bird species: Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*), Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*). To comply with the terms and conditions of the BO on behalf of ACC, Geo-Marine, Inc. issued a subcontract in 1999 with the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) to conduct surveys for the flycatcher within the San Francisco, Mimbres, and Gila River Valleys. This final report details survey methods and results for five periods of flycatcher surveys conducted in the Upper Gila Watershed and along the San Francisco River in 2007.

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[1] However, 142 territories and 117 pairs were documented along the Rio Grande upstream of the Elephant Butte Reservoir delta in 2006 (Moore and Ahlers 2006). Furthermore, the number of flycatchers at this site continues to increase, with 197 territories detected in 2007 (D. Ahlers pers. comm.).

METHODS

Survey Sites

Since 1999, RMRS has completed Southwestern Willow Flycatcher surveys in sixteen survey sites located over three river valleys in southwestern New Mexico: the San Francisco, Mimbres, and Gila (Table 1, Figure 1) (Stoleson and Finch 1999b, 2000; Stoleson 2001; Brodhead et al. 2002; Brodhead and Finch 2003, 2004; Wolf and Finch 2005; Walker and Finch 2006). The four Mimbres sites were only surveyed by RMRS in 1999 and 2000[2], and three of the five San Francisco sites were surveyed by RMRS only in 2004. In contrast, at least one of the seven sites in the Upper Gila River Watershed was surveyed in each year of the study, except in 2001. Focus on sites within the Upper Gila River Watershed is because the sites are: 1) the most likely of the sixteen to be colonized from the Cliff-Gila Valley due to their proximity and location within the same drainage; and 2) located within areas identified by Monzingo (1994) as having adequate floodplain width and vegetation density to support breeding Southwestern Willow Flycatchers.

In the 2007 field season, three sites along the San Francisco River and one site on the middle fork of the Gila River were surveyed. The three San Francisco River sites were surveyed in 2004 and the Middle Fork Site was surveyed in 2003 (Table 1). The San Francisco sites were selected based on historical records of breeding flycatchers in the vicinity (Durkin et al. 1996) and expert assessment of habitat by personnel of the Gila National Forest (E. Taylor pers. comm.) and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (S. Williams, pers. comm.). The Middle Fork Site was selected based on recommendations by Walker and Finch (2006), who documented that beaver dams along the middle fork of the Gila River had created backwater areas that supported vegetation suitable for breeding Southwestern Willow Flycatchers. Descriptions of the location and vegetation characteristics of the four sites, along with that for all sixteen sites, are provided in previous reports (Brodhead and Finch 2003, 2004).

Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site.—The Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site is in the town of Glenwood, New Mexico (Tables 2 & 3). The 0.6-km site is located along Whitewater Creek, only 0.5-kilometers from the confluence with the San Francisco River, at an elevation of 1,436 m (Figures 2 & 3). There is a relatively large riparian patch of forest on the site with a high canopy (> 20 m) comprised of native and exotic plant species, including: Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Arizona sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*), ash (*Fraxinus* spp.), boxelder (*Acer negundo*), Arizona alder (*Alnus oblongifolia*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), and Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*). Dense thickets of black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*) dominate the understory, particularly in the southwestern end of the site. Along the creek, on private property, the vegetation is patchily distributed and shorter in stature, and is comprised of bluestem willow (*Salix irrorata*), young to mid-aged boxelder, and alder. A small ditch runs through the site. Much of the site supports vegetation suitable for the flycatcher (Figure 4).

Harve Gulch Site.—The Harve Gulch Site is located along a 3.8-km section of the San Francisco River running between Harve Gulch and the Alma Bridge (Tables 2 & 3). A majority of this section lies at 1,463 m in a narrow canyon (Figures 5 & 6). Vegetation along this section of the river consists of small patches of Fremont Cottonwood, and scattered stringers of coyote willow (*S. exigua*) and seepwillow (*Baccharis salicifolia*). Much of the floodplain is scoured and, where terraces are present, the soil texture is predominately cobble. The canyon opens near the Alma Bridge and vegetation just below the bridge consists of mainly cottonwood with dense stands of coyote willow. Vegetation suitable for the flycatcher is limited and is primarily found

[2] After 2000, annual surveys of the Mimbres sites were completed by Geo-Marine, Inc.

in two locations: 1) near the Alma Bridge; and 2) at the midpoint of the survey route (UTM Coordinates: Zone 12, 0693420 Easting, 3693493 Northing), where the river splits in two and creates a willow-lined backwater area (Figure 7).

Keller Canyon Site.—The 1.6-km Keller Canyon Site is located at an elevation of 1,500 m, approximately 4 km upstream from the town of Alma (Tables 2 & 3). The upper third section of the site is confined to a narrow, north-to-south running canyon. Downstream, the river turns to the east, the canyon walls gradually widen until Keller Canyon joins the river, and the river eventually flows onto the broad floodplain of the Alma Valley (Figures 8 & 9). A water impoundment ('dam') is located along the river, just upstream from where Keller Canyon meets the river. Moist soil conditions below the dam support a lush groundcover of rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and grasses. Fremont and lanceleaf (*P. angustifolia* × *deltoides*) cottonwoods are the most common trees below the dam. Above the dam, the vegetation is found in relatively narrow stringers, but is dense, reflecting the abundance of permanent water. Bluestem willow is common, as are boxelder and cottonwood. Walnut is less common, but present. In 2007, the length of the study site was shortened at the southeastern end by a few 100 m, due to lack of vegetation. Vegetation suitable for the flycatcher is primarily willow-dominated vegetation located below the dam and willow-boxelder vegetation found from the dam to approximately 150 m upstream (Figure 10).

Middle Fork Survey Site.—The Middle Fork Site is in the Upper Gila Watershed, near the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument (Tables 2 & 3). Two sections of the Middle Fork were surveyed in 2003: 1) a small section, called the Middle Fork Meadows, approximately 20 km upstream from the confluence with the West Fork; and 2) a 10.5-km section beginning near the confluence with the West Fork. In 2007, only a 1.31-km section was surveyed, beginning at Forest Trail #157 and extending upstream to the boundary (near the hot springs) between the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Heart Bar Preserve and the Gila National Forest. Elevation of this site averages 1,720 m (Figures 11 & 12). The floodplain is relatively wide along much of the survey route, but the riparian vegetation is discontinuous, with numerous short stretches having little to no woody vegetation. Where present, vegetation is generally limited to narrow thickets of coyote willow along the river bank. Young narrow-leaved cottonwood (*P. angustifolia*) and Arizona alder are also present, but are patchily distributed. Tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.) is beginning to spread along the river, particularly near the hot springs (Figure 13). Vegetation suitable for the flycatcher is primarily willow-boxelder vegetation at the beginning of the survey route, and willow-alder vegetation near the hot springs (Figure 14). Although Walker and Finch (2006) documented a number of beaver dams along the Middle Fork that had created backwater areas that supported vegetation suitable for breeding Southwestern Willow Flycatchers, these beaver dams had been destroyed by monsoon floods in the late summer of 2006. As a result, many of the backwater areas found in 2006 were dry in 2007.

Survey Methods

Riparian vegetation within each site was surveyed systematically for Southwestern Willow Flycatchers using standardized survey techniques developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which involves playing recordings of flycatcher song to elicit responses from territorial birds (Sogge et al. 1997, USFWS 2000). Surveys were completed by H. Walker and D. Hawksworth, who held all permits required for surveying and monitoring Southwestern Willow Flycatchers. Surveys commenced 40 minutes before sunrise and were completed before noon, as birds tend to be unresponsive after noon (Sogge et al. 1997). Surveys were not conducted during

persistent rain or strong winds. During surveys, presence and numbers of flycatchers, evidence of breeding flycatchers, and presence of Brown-headed Cowbirds were recorded. In addition, notes were taken on bird species detected incidental to flycatcher surveys, particularly those that are federally and state listed as threatened and endangered.

Survey Dates

For project-related surveys, the US Fish and Wildlife Service recommends that five surveys of each site be completed within three survey periods (Sogge et al. 1997, USFWS 2000). The first survey should be conducted between 15 and 31 May, the second survey should be conducted between 1 and 21 June, and the third through fifth surveys should be conducted at least five days apart from 22 June through 17 July. All five surveys in the 2007 field season followed USFWS protocol: Survey 1 was conducted 22-25 May, Survey 2 was conducted 5-8 June, Survey 3 was conducted 27-28 June, Survey 4 was conducted 5-7 July, and Survey 5 was conducted 11-13 July (Table 4).

RESULTS

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Surveys

Five surveys and over 50 hours were spent surveying for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher at 4 locations during Summer 2007 (Tables 3 & 4). No flycatchers were observed at the Harve Gulch Site and the Middle Fork Gila River Site (Table 5). However, a total of 9 adult flycatchers and 5 nests were observed at the Glenwood Fish Hatchery and the Keller Canyon Sites (Table 5). Surveyors located 1 breeding pair of flycatchers, 1 nest, and 1 fledgling at the Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site. In addition, surveyors located 3 breeding pairs of flycatchers, 1 unmated adult, 1 fledgling, and 4 nests (3 new nests and 1 renest) at the Keller Canyon Site.

Survey 1.—During the first survey, flycatchers were only detected at the Keller Canyon Site. The birds were first detected upstream of a dam on 24 May 2007 at 0645 in the morning (UTM Coordinates: Zone 12, 0692676 Easting, 3698964 Northing). There was no need to play the recording, as birds were heard vocalizing from approximately 80 m away. During 35 minutes of observation, three males were detected giving the 'fitz-bew' vocalization characteristic of male flycatchers, while 1-3 others were heard 'whitting.' Birds were heard also giving interaction twittering vocalizations and giving the 'weeo' call. The array of vocalizations and the presence of both males and females indicated that it was likely that the flycatchers either had established or were establishing territories in the area, and possibly were breeding. A quick walk through the vegetation resulted in location of two old (likely > 1 year old) potential flycatcher nests.

Survey 2.—During the second survey period, flycatchers were detected at both the Keller Canyon and Glenwood Fish Hatchery Sites. While conducting playback surveys at the Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site on 6 June 2007, a flycatcher 'breet' vocalization was heard at 0615 at a distance of approximately 100 m. The vocalization was followed to the northern bank of Whitewater Creek, where, at 0638, a flycatcher was observed vocalizing from a perch high up in a mature Arizona sycamore (UTM Coordinates: Zone 12, 0697379 Easting, 3688759 Northing). At 0655, the flycatcher was heard 'fitz-bewing,' indicating that it was a male, and then a few minutes later, a second flycatcher was heard 'whitting' on the south bank of the creek. The presence of the second flycatcher prompted a search of the vegetation for nests and a nest was found at 0752 (UTM Coordinates: Zone 12, 0697386 Easting, 3688746 Northing; Figure 15). The female was observed once and appeared to be adding nesting material (Figure 16). The nest

('Hatchery 1') was located 5 m from water and 4 m up in a mid-aged willow (Figure 16). The flycatcher nest was located 5 m away from an old potential flycatcher nest (Figure 16) and 16 m away from a Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) nest containing 4 chat eggs and 1 Brown-headed Cowbird egg (Figure 17). The approximately 8-m wide strip of riparian vegetation was comprised of willow and several mature boxelder. A young Arizona alder was located near the nest. There was no ground cover. Discussion with hatchery employees led to the conclusion that the nest was located on Los Olmos property, rather than New Mexico Game and Fish property. Apparently, the nest was approximately 13 m south of the southern hatchery property boundary and approximately 110 m east of the western hatchery property boundary. Contact was made with Gerome Bohnett of Los Olmos later the same day and permission to access the nest site in the future was granted contingent upon surveyors contacting Mr. Bohnett prior to each visit.

Flycatchers at the Keller Canyon Site were detected during the second survey (7 June 2007) in the same location as on the first survey. Again, there was no need to play the recording as the birds were first heard vocalizing at 0640 in the morning from approximately 80 m away. A little over two hours (0745-0950) were spent both listening to the vocalizations to determine numbers of pairs and searching for nests. This effort resulted in locating 3 flycatcher breeding pairs and their associated nests (Figure 18). All of the flycatchers and their nests were located along a 50-m stretch of the west bank of the San Francisco River (Figure 18). The approximately 17-m wide strip of riparian vegetation was comprised of a thick groundcover of grasses, young to mid-aged boxelder, mature willow (often with diameter at breast height > 4 cm), and a few mature cottonwood (Figure 18). Mosquitoes (*Culix* spp.) were abundant within the vegetation, but were not present in large numbers in the open, along the river. The first nest (Keller Nest 1) was located at 0815, approximately 3 m from water and 2 m up in a young boxelder (UTM Coordinates: Zone 12, 0692676 Easting, 3698954 Northing; Figure 19). This nest contained four flycatcher eggs and was visited once by the female (Figure 19). The male 'fitz-bewed' repeatedly from approximately 7-10 m away, while the female foraged and gave the 'whitt' call nearby. The second nest (Keller Nest 2) to be located was found at 0846, approximately 32 m north of the south nest, 1 m from water, and 3 m up in a young boxelder (UTM Coordinates: Zone 12, 0692652 Easting, 3698973 Northing; Figure 20). An old nest (likely from the 2006 breeding season) was found 1 m away (Figure 20). The female came to the nest and appeared to be adding nesting material. The male 'fitz-bewed' occasionally from 5-10 m away. The third nest (Keller Nest 3) to be located was found at 0944, approximately 12 m north of the middle nest, 7 m from water, and 5.5 m up in a mature willow (possibly *S. irrorata*) (UTM Coordinates: Zone 12, 0692636 Easting, 3698984 Northing; Figure 21). An old nest (likely from the 2006 breeding season) was found 1 m away (Figure 13). Both the male and female were heard and seen vocalizing near the north nest (the male 'fitz-bewed' repeatedly), but the nest status could not be determined. The nest appeared to be complete and it is probable that the female was in the egg-laying phase or had laid all her eggs.

Survey 3.—All sites were visited during Survey 3 except for the Keller Canyon Site due to a misunderstanding of the protocol to coordinate with private landowners. Only 1 flycatcher was detected during Survey 3 on 28 June 2007 at the Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site. This sighting was within the vicinity of previously located birds. This survey was conducted solely on Hatchery property. The nest found in Survey 2 was not seen during this visit as it could not be observed from within the Hatchery.

Survey 4.—A total of 6 adult flycatchers and 2 nests were observed on 5 July 2007 during Survey 4. The Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site was surveyed from 0450 to 0635. Only 1 adult

flycatcher was detected in approximately the same location (within 10 m of the nest located during Survey 2) as the bird observed during Survey 3. Again, the survey was conducted from Hatchery property only.

The Keller Canyon Site was surveyed from 0845 to 1145, and 5 adult flycatchers and 2 nests were observed. Four birds were presumed to be the same pairs previously observed in Surveys 1 and 2 and a fifth bird was observed further downstream approximately 400 m downstream from Keller Nests 1-3 (UTM Coordinates: Zone 12, 0693025 Easting, 3698885 Northing). Keller Nest 1 could not be relocated; but, 2 agitated flycatchers observed in the vicinity exhibited behaviors typical for a nesting pair. Singing males were observed near Keller Nests 2 and 3, but there was no activity at the nests. Birds were observed only briefly, so as to avoid excess disturbance. The fifth individual detected did not give the 'fitzbew' song and only gave a 'whit' call, so its sex was not determined.

Survey 5.—A total of 9 adult flycatchers and 2 nests were observed on 11 July 2007 during Survey 5. The Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site was surveyed from 0900 to 1015 and two adult flycatchers were relocated in approximately the same location as previous sightings. In addition, there was 1 fledgling flycatcher observed in close proximity to the adults (within 10 m of the nest located during Survey 2).

The Keller Canyon Site was surveyed from 0545 to 0830, and 7 adult flycatchers, 1 fledgling, and 2 nests were observed. The 7 adult birds were likely the same birds located in previous surveys (six breeding adults and 1 lone bird). Similar to the results from Survey 4, Keller Nest 1 was not relocated, but 2 birds within the proximity of the nest were exhibiting behaviors of nesting adults. One fledgling flycatcher was located near Nest 1, but it was unclear to which nest the fledgling belonged. The presence of the fledgling could be a likely explanation for the agitated behavior exhibited by the adult birds. The location of Keller Nest 2 was found, but the nest was gone – perhaps either blown down or dismantled. A pair of flycatchers was observed building a new nest (Keller Nest 4) in the proximity (within 3 m) of Nest 2 (UTM Coordinates: Zone 12, 0692663 Easting, 3698974 Northing). We think the pair's first nest failed and the new nest was a second nesting attempt. As the minimum time from laying to fledging is 28-29 days (Sedgwick 2000), it is unlikely that any nestlings fledged successfully from the first nesting attempt, even if assuming the pair began egg laying when first observed during Survey 2. Nest 4 was located in a Boxelder tree, approximately 4 m high and less than 5 m from the river's edge. Keller Nest 3 was observed again during Survey 5; however, no activity was observed. The three flycatcher pairs and fledgling were observed from about 0630 to 0645 and from 0730 to 0745. At 0815, a seventh adult bird was resighted 400 m downstream in the same location as the single bird observed in Survey 4. Again the bird was giving a 'whit' call and the sex could not be determined.

Incidental Sightings

A total of 94 bird species were detected during the 5 flycatcher surveys (Table 7). As flycatcher surveys were completed in riparian vegetation, a majority of the detected bird species were either riparian obligate or facultative species. Of the 94 bird species, 4 were legally protected: Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*), Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). The Common Black-Hawk is a US Fish and Wildlife Service sensitive species and a state threatened species in New Mexico. The Zone-tailed Hawk is a US Fish and Wildlife Sensitive Species in New Mexico. The Peregrine Falcon is state threatened in New Mexico. The

Yellow-billed Cuckoo is a riparian obligate species whose threatened status was ruled "warranted but precluded" by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2001).

Of the three legally protected bird species, Common Black-Hawk was detected most frequently, being observed on all three sites along the San Francisco River (Tables 4 & 7). One pair of Common Black-Hawks was repeatedly observed (along with its nest) at the Glenwood Fish Hatchery during all 5 surveys. One Common Black-Hawk was observed during each survey at the Keller Canyon Site and 1-2 hawks were observed at the Harve Gulch Site. The Zone-tailed Hawk was only observed along the San Francisco River at the Harve Gulch Site on Survey 2 (Table 7). A Peregrine Falcon was only observed from the Glenwood Fish Hatchery on Survey 1 (Tables 4 & 7). The bird was flying upstream along Whitewater Creek, carrying a prey item.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were detected on only 2 of the 4 sites (Tables 4 & 7). Cuckoos were observed during all 5 surveys approximately 150 m downstream from the dam at the Keller Canyon Site. A cuckoo was heard giving the 'kowlp' call during Survey 1 and was heard giving a 'coo' call followed by a partial 'kowlp' call during Survey 2. Later, during Survey 2, two cuckoos were observed approximately 200 m upstream of the dam, one giving the 'kowlp' call, the other giving the 'coo' call. During Surveys 3, 4, and 5, one cuckoo was heard singing at the Keller Canyon Site (UTM Coordinates: Zone 12, 0692951 Easting, 3698894 Northing). One cuckoo was heard giving the 'coo' call during Survey 2 at the Harve Gulch Site.

Detected Common Black-Hawks, Peregrine Falcons, and Yellow-billed Cuckoos were likely locally breeding individuals, while the breeding status of the Zone-tailed Hawk is unknown.

DISCUSSION

During 5 surveys at 4 sites, a total of 11 Southwestern Willow Flycatchers were observed with 5 nests. Surveyors located 1 pair, 1 nest, and 1 fledgling along Whitewater Creek near the Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site, and 1 single adult, 3 pairs and associated nests, and 1 fledgling along the San Francisco River at the Keller Canyon Site.

Presence of old flycatcher nests within the vicinity of the active 2007 nests suggests that flycatchers were likely breeding in these sites in 2006, and possibly were breeding there in 2005. According to Hubbard (1987), summering flycatchers had been regularly observed in the Glenwood-Pleasanton area after the first nest in that locality was discovered in 1966. However, besides a handful of records from the 1960s-70s and a documentation of flycatchers in Glenwood near the Highway 180 bridge in 1993 (C. Hayes, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, pers. comm.), reports of the flycatcher breeding in the Alma-Glenwood-Pleasanton area are scant. Furthermore, no flycatchers had been detected when RMRS surveyed the three San Francisco River sites in 2004. Little information exists as to why the flycatcher might be now breeding again at the Glenwood Fish Hatchery and along the San Francisco River. The dam downstream of the Keller Canyon population – which supports a consistent water supply behind the dam and thus, in turn, supports riparian habitat required by the flycatcher – has been in existence at least since 1978 (Pat Morrison, Glenwood District Ranger, pers. comm.). Perhaps both recent (after 2004) restrictions to livestock grazing within the Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site and recent (over the last 6 years) restrictions to cattle grazing within the local riparian vegetation at the Keller Canyon Site might have benefited the flycatcher. Increased rainfall in spring 2007 might have also benefited the flycatcher. Both increased nesting success in other New Mexico

flycatcher populations and declines in suitable habitat across the region also could be influencing flycatcher population dynamics along the San Francisco River.

RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the standardized protocol, additional surveys are not required once breeding status of flycatchers is verified (Sogge et al. 1997, USFWS 2000). However, we recommend 1-2 additional surveys of the Glenwood Fish Hatchery and Keller Canyon Sites be completed to determine if any yet undetected flycatchers are present. We also recommend resurveying sites that have not been surveyed for several years; for example, the Lower East Fork and Lower West Fork in the Gila Valley have not been visited for several years. Resurveying may be productive considering flycatchers were recorded in 2007 in sites where flycatchers have not been previously recorded. Surveys should be repeated periodically in sites where colonization seems probable (Brodhead et al. 2002).

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Table 1. Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) survey history from 1999 through 2007 for sixteen survey sites located in southwestern New Mexico. 'X' indicates that the site was surveyed in that year.

	San Francisco Valley					Mimbres Valley[1]				Gila Valley						
Year	Glenwood Fish Hatchery	Keller Canyon	Harve Gulch	Alma	Hot Springs	Giraud	MacAnally	Dominguez	Disert	East Fork Upper	East Fork Lower	Middle Fork	West Fork Heart Bar	West Fork Lower	West Fork Upper	Main Stem
1999					X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X*
2000					X	X	X	X	X				X	X		
2001				X	X											
2002											X				X	X**
2003					X							X			X	
2004	X	X	X	X									X			X**
2005										X			X		X	
2006													X		X	X**
2007	X	X	X									X				

[1] After 2000, annual surveys of the Mimbres sites were completed by Geo-Marine, Inc.

* Surveyed downstream to Alum Camp.

** Surveyed downstream to Forest Trail #788

Table 2. Information for sites along the San Francisco River and the middle fork of the Gila River, Catron County, New Mexico surveyed for Southwestern Willow Flycatchers (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in Summer 2007.

Location	Elevation (meters)	Managing Authority	Owner	USGS Topo Quad (1:24,000)	County
Glenwood Fish Hatchery	1436	State	NMDGF	Glenwood	Catron
Harve Gulch	1463	Federal	GNF	Glenwood	Catron
Keller Canyon	1500	Federal	GNF	Alma	Catron
Middle Fork	1720	State	NMDGF	Gila Hot Springs	Catron

GNF = Gila National Forest
NMDGF = New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Table 3. The Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates of Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) survey sites surveyed in Summer 2007 along the San Francisco River and the middle fork of the Gila River, Catron County, New Mexico. All coordinates were recorded using Datum NAD83 and Zone 12S.

	Start		End		
Location	**Easting**	**Northing**	**Easting**	**Northing**	**Length (km)**
Fish Hatchery	0697131	3688586	0697463	3688912	0.60
Harve Gulch	0694745	3692229	0694415	3693991	3.80
Keller Canyon	0693243	3698873	0692618	3699490	1.60
Middle Fork	0757014	3679705	0757646	3680672	1.31

Table 4. Results of five surveys for Southwestern Willow Flycatchers (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) conducted from 22 May through 12 July 2007 along the San Francisco River and the middle fork of the Gila River, Catron County, New Mexico. In addition to Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (WIFL) detections, presence ('Yes') of Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*; BHCO) and incidental detections of Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*; COBH), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*; PEFA), and Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*; YBCU) were recorded. Flycatcher fledglings are recorded in the notes.

Date	Location	Time	Survey Effort	WIFL	BHCO	COBH	PEFA	YBCU	WIFL Notes
05/22/07	Glenwood Fish Hatchery	0510-0845	3 hrs 35 min	0	NO	1	1	0	
06/06/07	Glenwood Fish Hatchery	0520-0620	1 hr 0 min	2	YES	1	0	0	1 pair, 1 nest
06/28/07	Glenwood Fish Hatchery	0515-0645	1 hr 30 min	1	NO	1	0	0	1 pair, no nest
07/05/07	Glenwood Fish Hatchery	0450-0635	1 hr 45 min	1	NO	1	0	0	1 pair, 1 nest
07/11/07	Glenwood Fish Hatchery	0900-1015	1 hr 15 min	2	NO	1	0	0	1 pair, 1 fledgling
			9 hrs 5 min						
05/23/07	Harve Gulch	0515-0930	4 hrs 15 min	0	YES	0	0	0	
06/08/07	Harve Gulch	0530-0755	2 hrs 25 min	0	YES	1	0	1	
06/27/07	Harve Gulch	0500-1000	5 hrs 0 min	0	YES	2	0	0	
07/06/07	Harve Gulch	0500-0945	4 hrs 45 min	0	YES	1	0	0	
07/12/07	Harve Gulch	0600-1000	4 hrs 0 min	0	YES	2	0	0	
			20 hrs 25 min						
05/24/07	Keller Canyon	0545-0800	2 hrs 15 min	6	YES	0	0	0	3 males, poss. 3 females
06/07/07	Keller Canyon	0545-0715	1 hr 30 min	6	YES	1	0	1-3	3 pairs, 3 nests
07/05/07	Keller Canyon	0845-1145	3 hrs 0 min	5	YES	1	0	1	5 adults, 2 nests
07/11/07	Keller Canyon	0545-0830	1 hr 45 min	7	YES	1	0	1	7 adults, 2 nests, 1 fledgling
			8 hrs 30 min						
05/25/07	Middle Fork	0520-0800	2 hrs 40 min	0	YES	0	0	0	
06/05/07	Middle Fork	0520-0720	2 hrs 0 min	0	NO	0	0	0	
06/28/07	Middle Fork	0445-0800	3 hrs 15 min	0	YES	0	0	0	
07/07/07	Middle Fork	0530-0800	2 hrs 30 min	0	YES	0	0	0	
07/13/07	Middle Fork	0540-0755	2 hrs 15 min	0	YES	0	0	0	
			12 hrs 40 min						

Table 5. Results of Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) surveys conducted from 1999 through 2007 within sixteen survey sites located in southwestern New Mexico. 'NONE' indicates that no flycatchers were detected within the site in that year. A blank entry indicates that the site was not surveyed in that year.

	San Francisco Valley					Mimbres Valley[1]				Gila Valley						
Year	Glenwood Fish Hatchery	Keller Canyon	Harve Gulch	Alma	Hot Springs	Giraud	MacAnally	Dominguez	Disert	East Fork Upper	East Fork Lower	Middle Fork	West Fork Heart Bar	West Fork Lower	West Fork Upper	Main Stem
1999					NONE	1*	NONE	NONE	NONE		NONE		NONE	NONE		NONE
2000					NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE				NONE	NONE		
2001				NONE	NONE											
2002											NONE				NONE	NONE
2003					NONE							NONE			NONE	
2004	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE									NONE			NONE
2005										NONE			NONE		1**	
2006													NONE		1**	NONE
2007	2~	7~	NONE									NONE				

[1] Please refer to Geo-Marine, Inc. for results of surveys completed along the Mimbres after 2000.

~One fledgling was observed at Glenwood Fish Hatchery and Keller Canyon sites.

* Silent individual identified as Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*).

** Responded to tape with 'Fitz-bew' vocalization. Determined to be a Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*) migrant due to date.

Table 6. The Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates of Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) pairs and nests detected during five surveys in Summer 2007 along the San Francisco River and the middle fork of the Gila River, Catron County, New Mexico. All coordinates were recorded using Datum NAD83 and Zone 12S. Keller Nest 2 and 4 were built by the same pair of flycatchers.

		Location		
Pair/Nest Name	**Site Name**	**Easting**	**Northing**	**Nest Status When Found**
Hatchery Nest 1, Hatchery Female	Glenwood Fish Hatchery	0697386	3688746	Building
Hatchery Male	Glenwood Fish Hatchery	0697379	3688759	
Hatchery Fledgling	Glenwood Fish Hatchery	Within 10 m of nest		
Keller Nest 1, Keller Pair 1	Keller Canyon	0692676	3698954	Incubation: 4 eggs
Hatchery Fledgling	Keller Canyon	Within 5 m of nest		
Keller Nest 2, Keller Pair 2	Keller Canyon	0692652	3698973	Building
Keller Nest 3, Keller Pair 3	Keller Canyon	0692636	3698984	Unknown: Egg-laying?
Keller Nest 4	Keller Canyon	0692663	3698974	Building
Keller Lone Bird	Keller Canyon	0693025	3698885	

Table 7. Common and scientific names of bird species incidentally detected while conducting five surveys for Southwestern Willow Flycatchers (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) from 22 May through 13 July 2007 along the San Francisco River and the middle fork of the Gila River, Catron County, New Mexico. Unless otherwise noted, most bird species were detected regularly where found.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Alpha Code	Glenwood Fish Hatchery	Harve Gulch	Keller Canyon	Middle Fork	Notes
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	MALL				X	
Common Merganser	*Mergus merganser*	COME		X	X		
Gambel's Quail	*Callipepla gambelii*	GAQU	X	X	X		
Montezuma Quail	*Cyrtonyx montezumae*	MTZQ		X			
Great Blue Heron	*Ardea herodias*	GBHE			X	X	
Turkey Vulture	*Cathartes aura*	TUVU	X		X	X	
Common Black-Hawk	*Buteogallus anthracinus*	COBH	X	X	X		Nest found @ hatchery
Zone-tailed Hawk	*Buteo albonotatus*	ZTHA		X			06/08/07
Red-tailed Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*	RTHA			X		
Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*	GOEA		X			05/23/07
American Kestrel	*Falco sparverius*	AMKE	X	X		X	
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	PEFA	X				05/21/07 flying up Whitewater Creek with food
Killdeer	*Charadrius vociferus*	KILL			X		
Sora	*Porzana carolina*	SORA				X	
Spotted Sandpiper	*Actitis macularius*	SPSA			X	X	
Band-tailed Pigeon	*Patagioenas fasciata*	BTPI	X		X		
Eurasian Collared-Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*	EUCD	X				
White-winged Dove	*Zenaida asiatica*	WWDO	X			X	
Mourning Dove	*Zenaida macroura*	MODO	X	X	X	X	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus*	YBCU		X	X		Likely 1 pair @ Keller Canyon
Great Horned Owl	*Bubo virginianus*	GHOW		X			
Common Poorwill	*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*	COPO				X	
White-throated Swift	*Aeronautes saxatalis*	WTSW		X	X	X	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	*Archilochus alexandri*	BCHU	X	X	X	X	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	*Selasphorus platycercus*	BTLH	X	X	X	X	
Belted Kingfisher	*Ceryle alcyon*	BEKI	X				
Acorn Woodpecker	*Melanerpes formicivorus*	ACWO	X	X			
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	*Picoides scalaris*	LBWO	X	X	X		
Downy Woodpecker	*Picoides pubescens*	DOWO	X			X	
Hairy Woodpecker	*Picoides*	HAWO	X				
Red-shafted Flicker	*Colaptes auratus cafer*	RSFL	X	X		X	
Western Wood-Pewee	*Contopus sordidulus*	WEWP	X	X	X	X	
Willow Flycatcher	*Empidonax traillii*	WIFL	X		X		3 pairs @ Keller Canyon, 1 pair @ hatchery

able continued on next page.

Table 7 continued.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Alpha Code	Glenwood Fish Hatchery	Harve Gulch	Keller Canyon	Middle Fork	Notes
Dusky Flycatcher	*Empidonax oberholseri*	DUFL	X				
Cordilleran Flycatcher	*Empidonax occidentalis*	COFL				X	
Black Phoebe	*Sayornis nigricans*	BLPH	X	X	X	X	
Say's Phoebe	*Sayornis saya*	SAPH	X	X	X	X	
Vermilion Flycatcher	*Pyrocephalus rubinus*	VEFL	X		X		
Ash-throated Flycatcher	*Myiarchus cinerascens*	ATFL	X	X	X	X	
Brown-crested Flycatcher	*Myiarchus tyrannulus*	BCFL	X	X			
Cassin's Kingbird	*Tyrannus vociferans*	CAKI	X	X	X	X	
Western Kingbird	*Tyrannus verticalis*	WEKI	X	X		X	
Plumbeous Vireo	*Vireo plumbeus*	PLVI	X	X	X	X	
Hutton's Vireo	*Vireo huttoni*	HUVI		X			
Warbling Vireo	*Vireo gilvus*	WAVI	X	X		X	
Steller's Jay	*Cyanocitta stelleri*	STJA				X	
Pinyon Jay	*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*	PIJA				X	
Western Scrub-jay	*Aphelocoma californica*	WESJ				X	
American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*	AMCR			X		
Common Raven	*Corvus corax*	CORA	X		X		
Violet-green Swallow	*Tachycineta thalassina*	VGSW	X		X	X	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*	NRWS		X	X		
Cliff Swallow	*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*	CLSW		X	X	X	
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	BARS	X				
Bridled Titmouse	*Baeolophus wollweberi*	BRTI	X	X			
Juniper Titmouse	*Baeolophus ridgwayi*	JUTI				X	
Bushtit	*Psaltriparus minimus*	BUSH				X	
White-breasted Nuthatch	*Sitta carolinensis*	WBNU	X			X	
Rock Wren	*Salpinctes obsoletus*	ROWR		X	X	X	
Canyon Wren	*Catherpes mexicanus*	CANW		X	X	X	
Bewick's Wren	*Thryomanes bewickii*	BEWR	X	X	X	X	
House Wren	*Troglodytes aedon*	HOWR		X		X	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	*Polioptila caerulea*	BGGN				X	
Western Bluebird	*Sialia mexicana*	WEBL				X	
Townsend's Solitaire	*Myadestes townsendi*	TOSO				X	
Hermit Thrush	*Catharus guttatus*	HETH				X	
American Robin	*Turdus migratorius*	AMRO	X		X	X	
Northern Mockingbird	*Mimus polyglottos*	NOMO		X	X	X	
European Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	EUST	X				
Phainopepla	*Phainopepla nitens*	PHAI	X	X	X		

Table continued on next page.

Table 7 continued.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Alpha Code	Glenwood Fish Hatchery	Harve Gulch	Keller Canyon	Middle Fork	Notes
Virginia's Warbler	*Vermivora virginiae*	VIWA		X		X	
Lucy's Warbler	*Vermivora luciae*	LUWA	X	X	X		
Yellow Warbler	*Dendroica petechia*	YWAR	X	X	X	X	
Common Yellowthroat	*Geothlypis trichas*	COYE	X		X	X	
Wilson's Warbler	*Wilsonia pusilla*	WIWA		X	X	X	
Yellow-breasted Chat	*Icteria virens*	YBCH	X	X	X	X	
Hepatic Tanager	*Piranga flava*	HETA		X		X	
Summer Tanager	*Piranga rubra*	SUTA	X	X	X	X	
Western Tanager	*Piranga ludoviciana*	WETA		X	X	X	
Spotted Towhee	*Pipilo maculatus*	SPTO	X	X	X	X	
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	*Aimophila ruficeps*	RCSP		X	X	X	
Lark Sparrow	*Chondestes grammacus*	LASP		X		X	
Northern Cardinal	*Cardinalis cardinalis*	NOCA	X		X		
Black-headed Grosbeak	*Pheucticus melanocephalus*	BHGR	X	X	X	X	
Blue Grosbeak	*Passerina caerulea*	BLGR	X	X	X	X	
Lazuli Bunting	*Passerina amoena*	LAZB	X	X	X	X	
Indigo Bunting	*Passerina cyanea*	INBU		X	X	X	
Red-winged Blackbird	*Agelaius phoeniceus*	RWBL	X			X	
Brown-headed Cowbird	*Molothrus ater*	BHCO	X	X	X	X	
Hooded Oriole	*Icterus cucullatus*	HOOR		X			
Bullock's Oriole	*Icterus bullockii*	BUOR	X	X	X	X	
Scott's Oriole	*Icterus parisorum*	SCOR		X			
Lesser Goldfinch	*Carduelis psaltria*	LEGO	X	X	X	X	
House Finch	*Carpodacus mexicanus*	HOFI	X	X	X	X	

Figure 1. Locations of rivers in southwestern New Mexico along which Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) surveys were conducted at least once from 1999 through 2007.

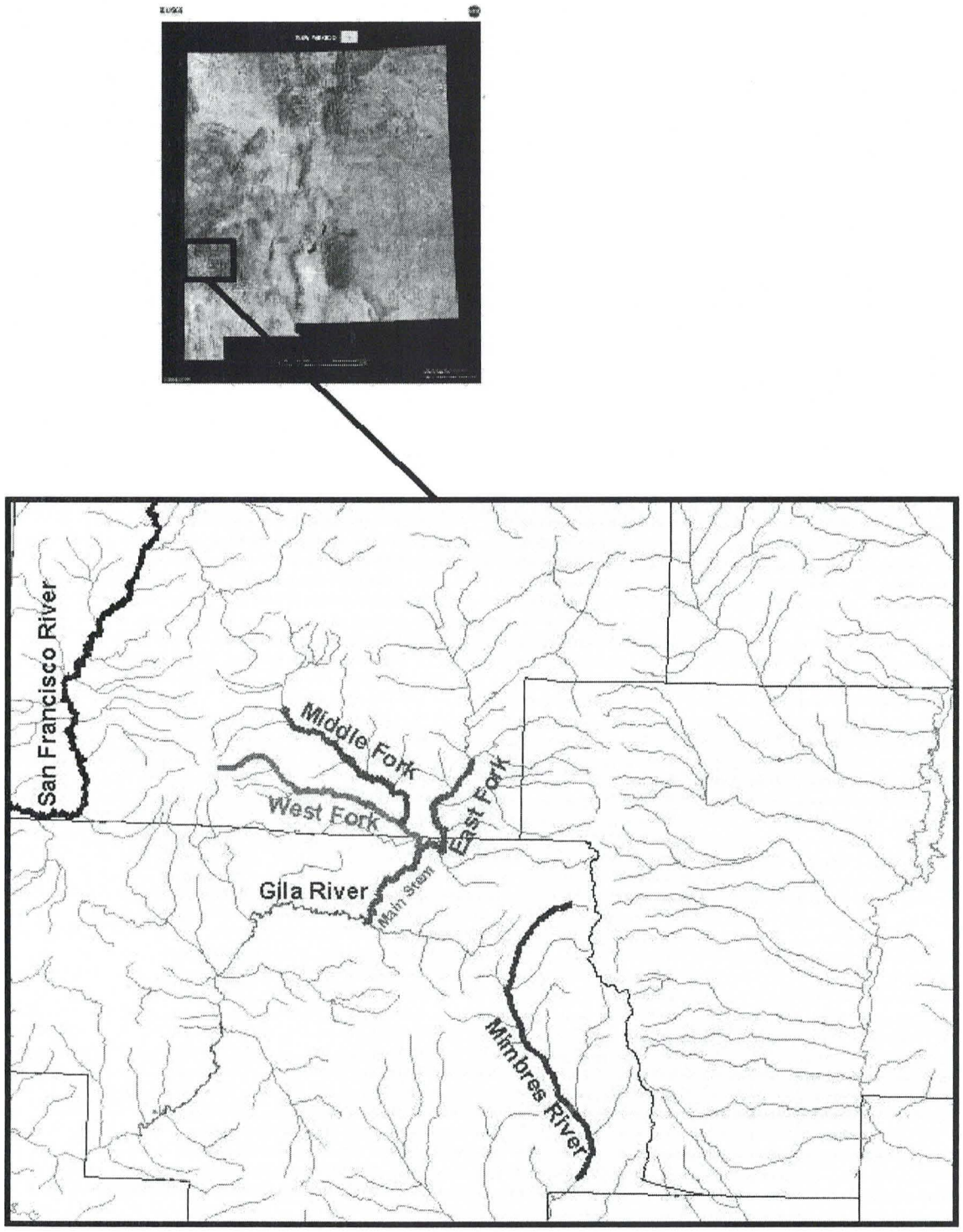

Figure 2. Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site: Route for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) surveys conducted 22 May through 11 July 2007. Survey site shown on Glenwood, New Mexico USGS Topographic Quadrangle (1999). Map scale is approximately 1:15,000.

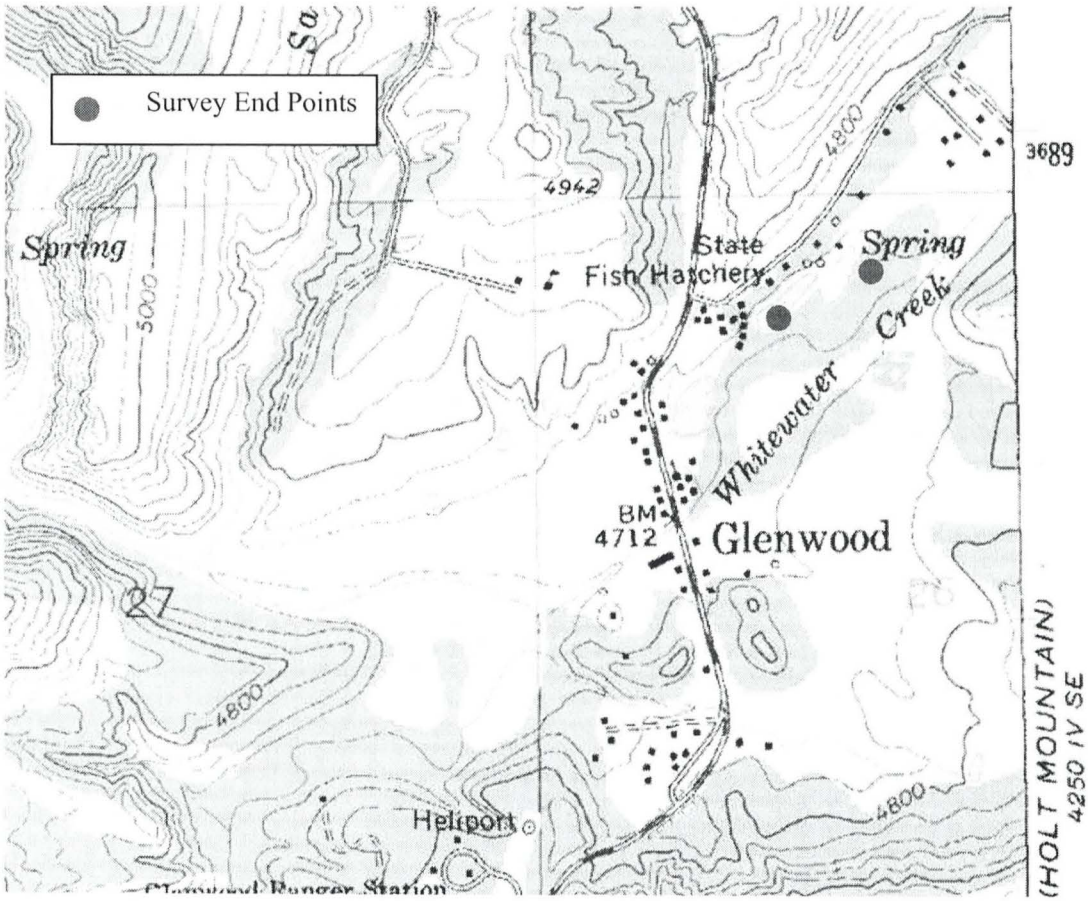

Figure 3. Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site: Route (black line) for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) surveys conducted 22 May through 11 July 2007. Aerial photograph dated 13 September 2005.

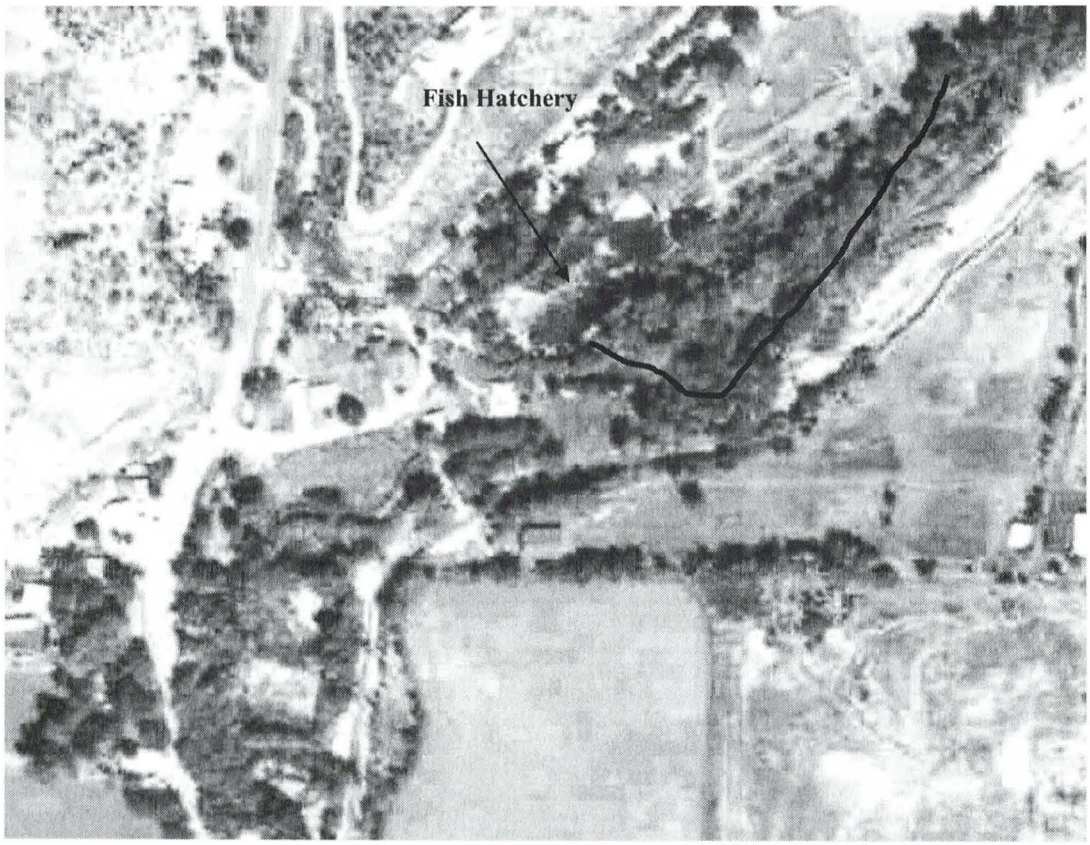

Figure 4. Much of the Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site, Catron County, New Mexico supports vegetation suitable for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) (Photographs by H. Walker.)

Figure 5. Harve Gulch Site: Route for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) surveys conducted 23 May through 12 July 2007. Site is located along the San Francisco River running between Harve Gulch and the Alma Bridge. Survey site shown on Glenwood, New Mexico USGS Topographic Quadrangle (1999). Map scale is approximately 1:24,000.

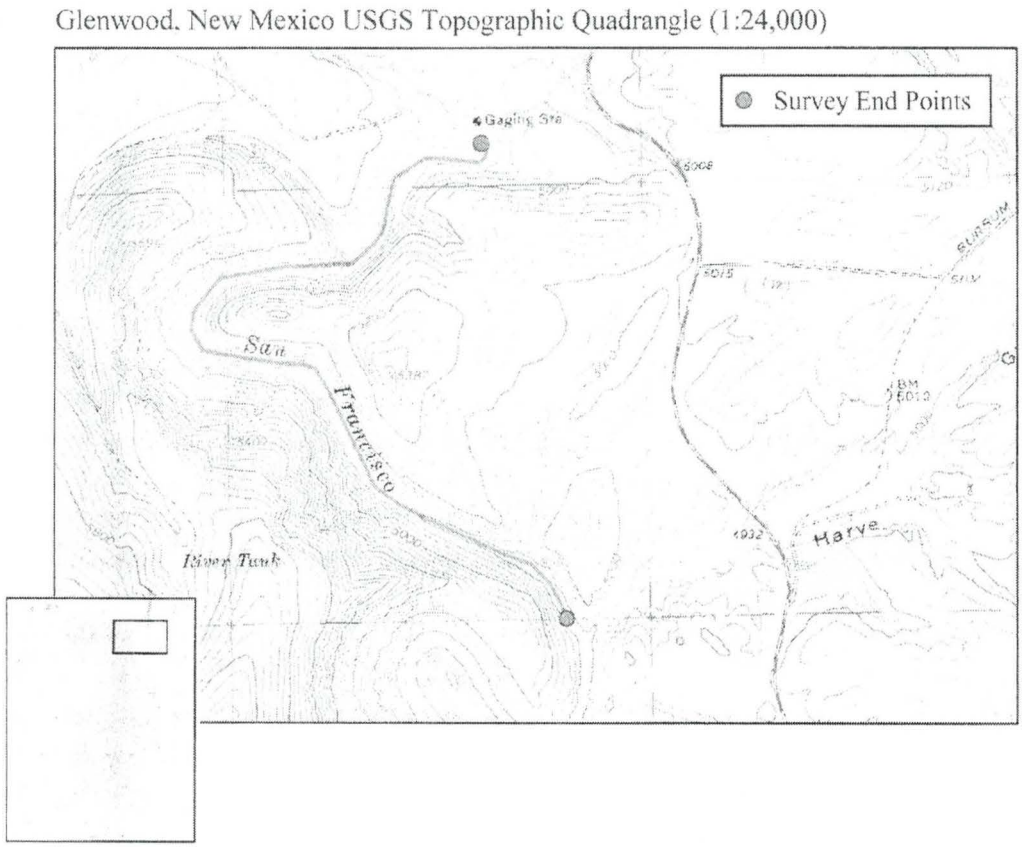

Figure 6. Harve Gulch Site: Route (black line) for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) surveys conducted 23 May through 12 July 2007. Aerial photograph dated 13 September 2005.

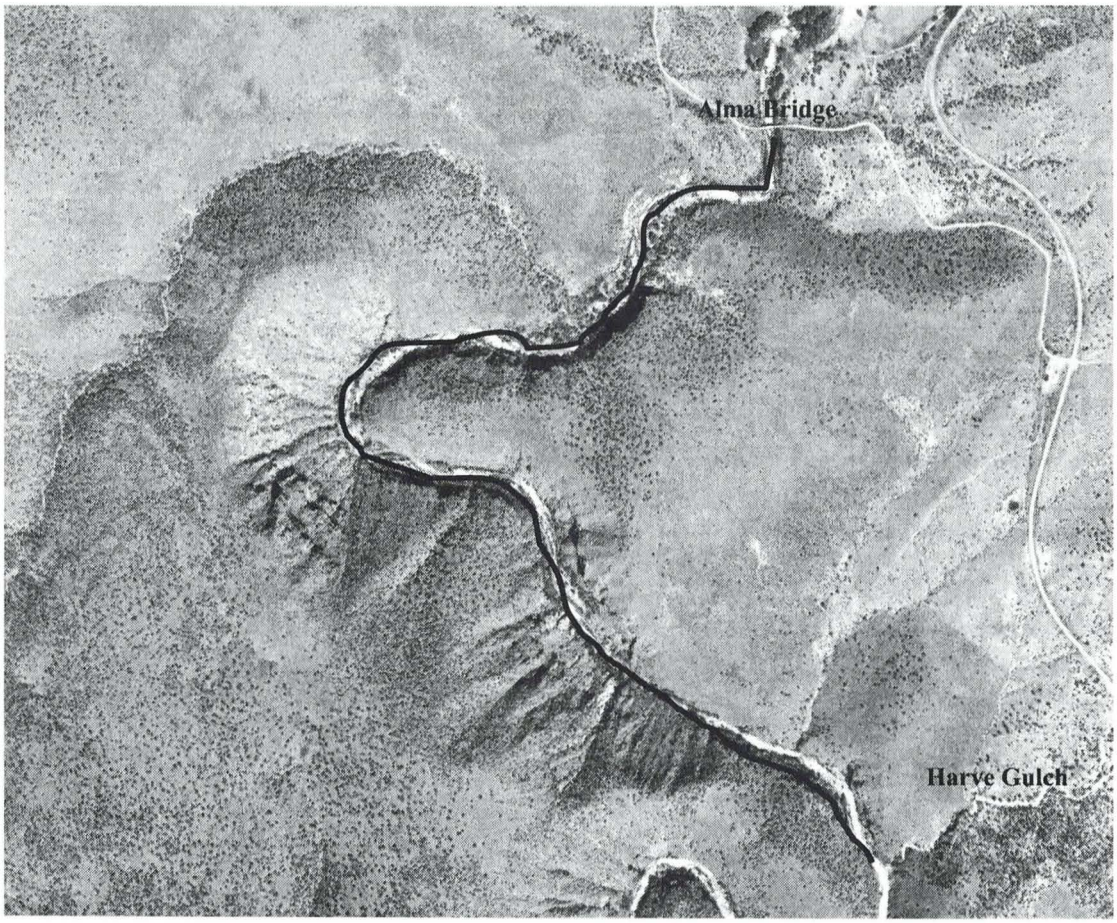

Figure 7. Vegetation suitable for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) at the Harve Gulch Site, Catron County, New Mexico is primarily found in only two locations: 1) near the Alma Bridge (top photograph); and 2) at the midpoint of the survey route (UTM Coordinates: Zone 12, 0693420 Easting, 3693493 Northing), where the river splits in two and creates a willow (*Salix*)-lined backwater area (bottom photograph). (Photographs by H. Walker.)

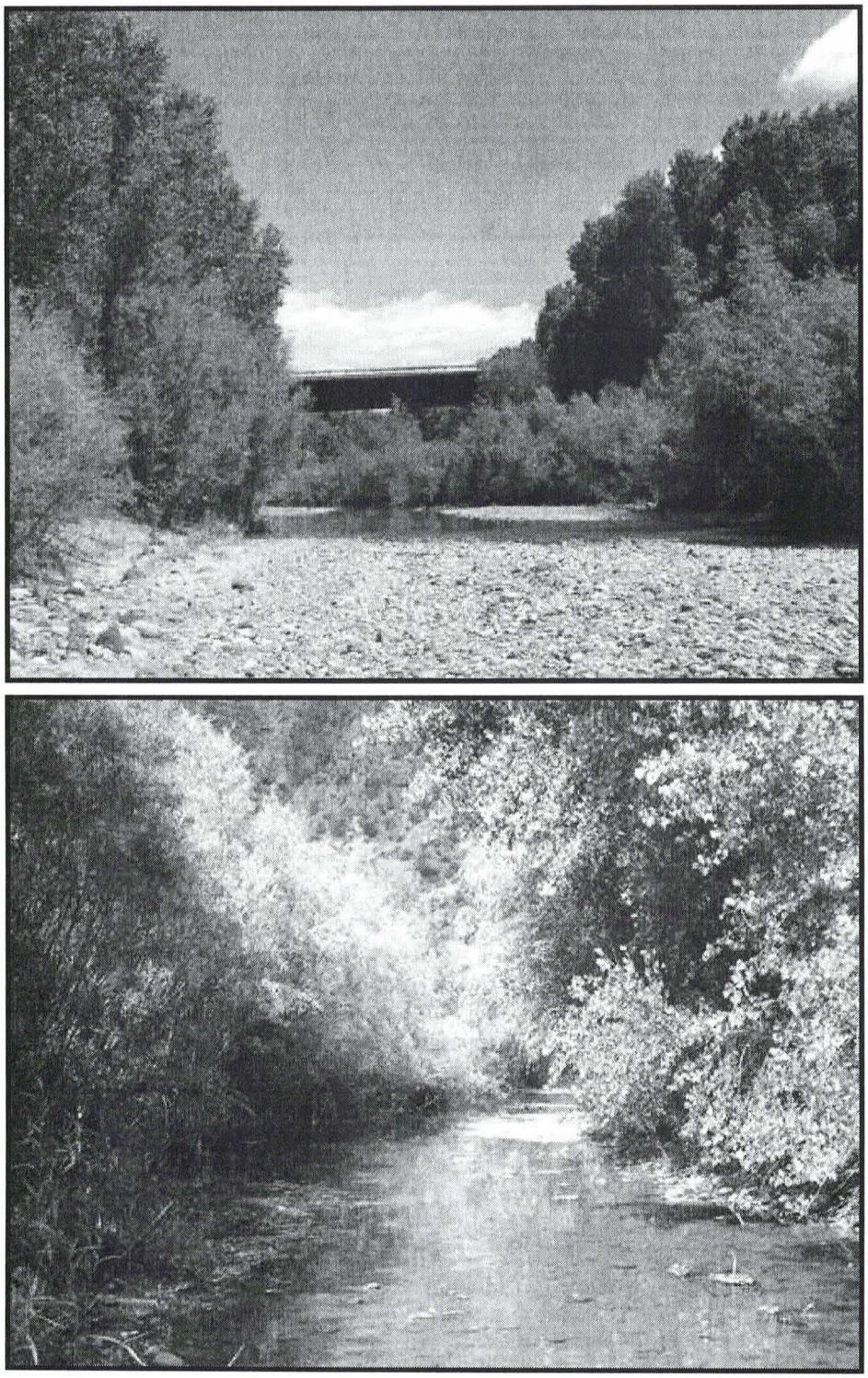

Figure 8. Keller Canyon Site: Route for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) surveys conducted 24 May through 11 July 2007. Survey site shown on Alma, New Mexico USGS Topographic Quadrangle (1999). Map scale is approximately 1:24,000.

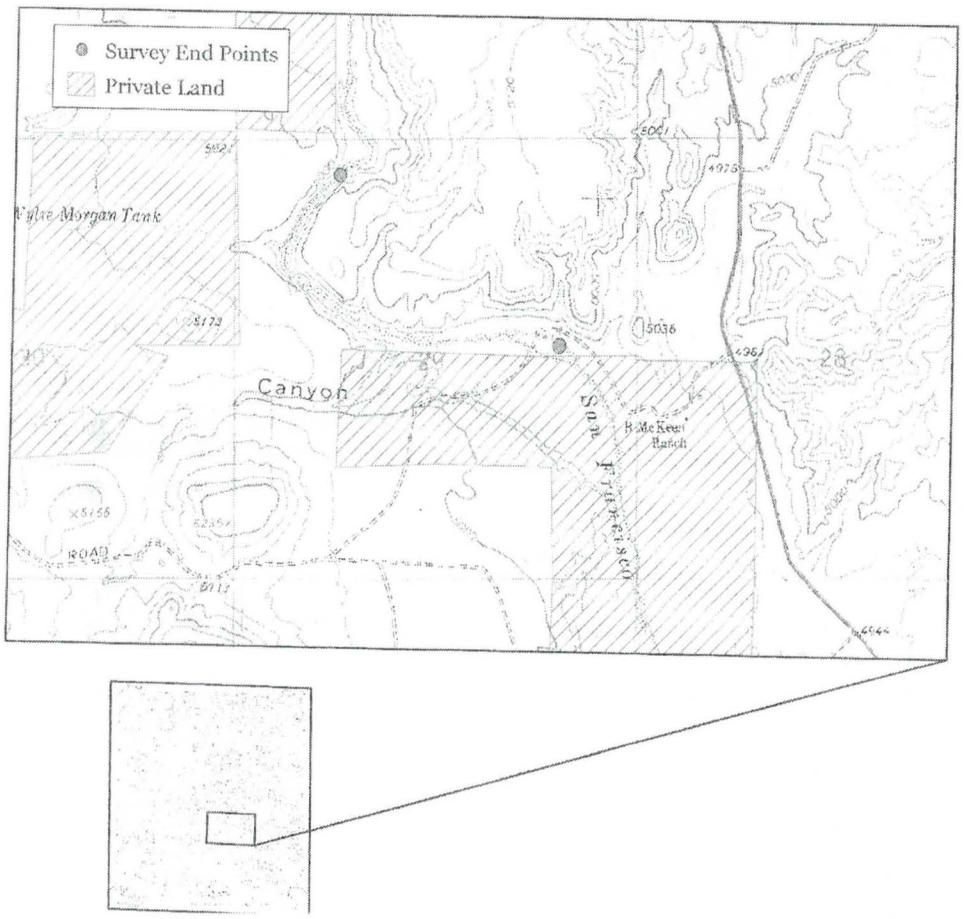

Figure 9. Keller Canyon Site: Route (black line) for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) surveys conducted 24 May through 11 July 2007. Aerial photograph dated 13 September 2005.

Figure 10. Vegetation suitable for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) at the Keller Canyon Site, Catron County, New Mexico is primarily willow (*Salix*)-dominated vegetation located below the dam (top photograph) and willow-boxelder (*Salix-Acer negundo*) vegetation found from the dam to upstream approximately 150 m (bottom photograph). (Photographs by H. Walker.)

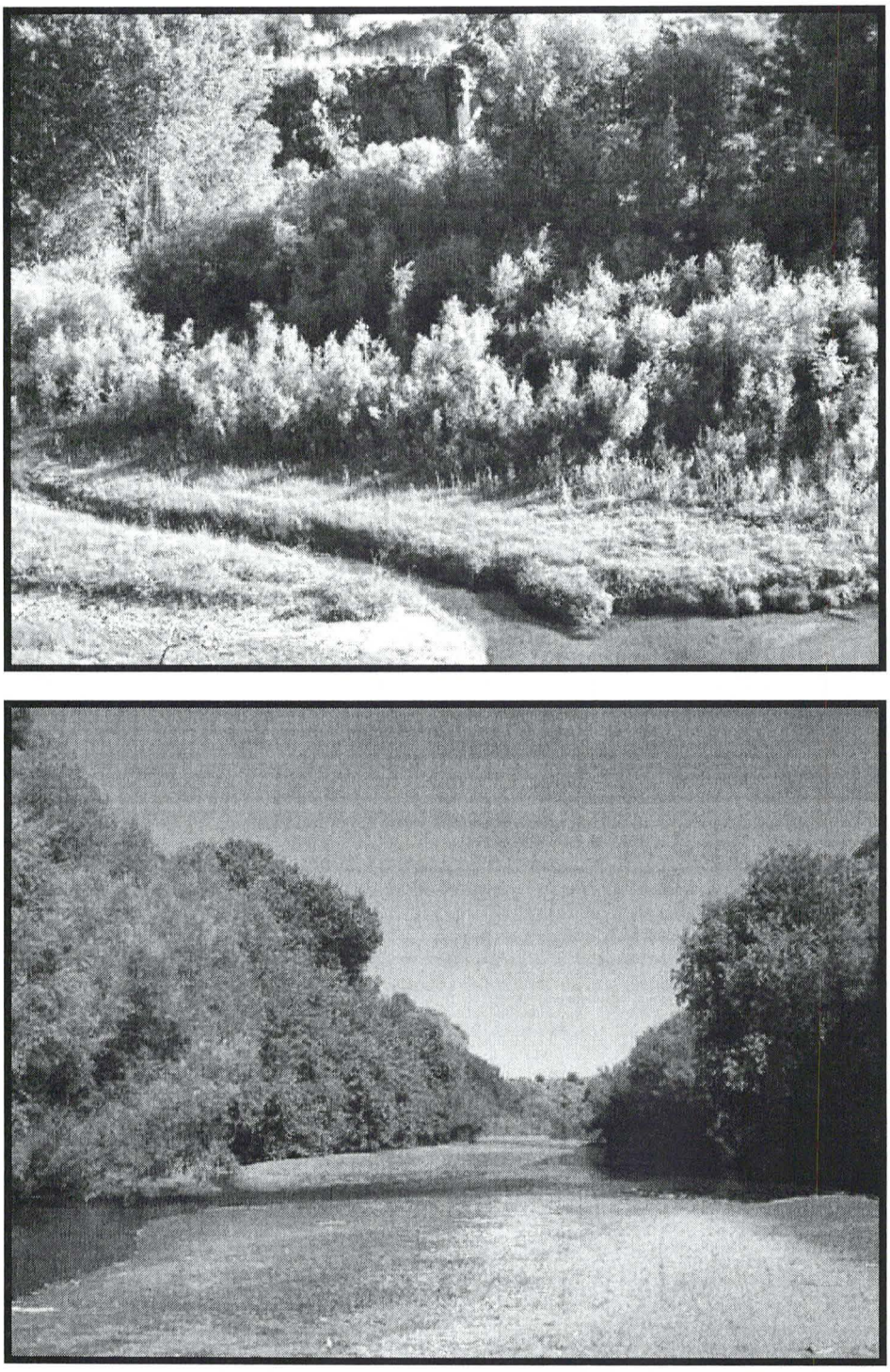

Figure 11. Gila River, Middle Fork Site: Route for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) surveys conducted 25 May through 13 July 2007. Survey site shown on Gila Hot Springs, New Mexico USGS Topographic Quadrangle (1999). Map scale is approximately 1:24,000.

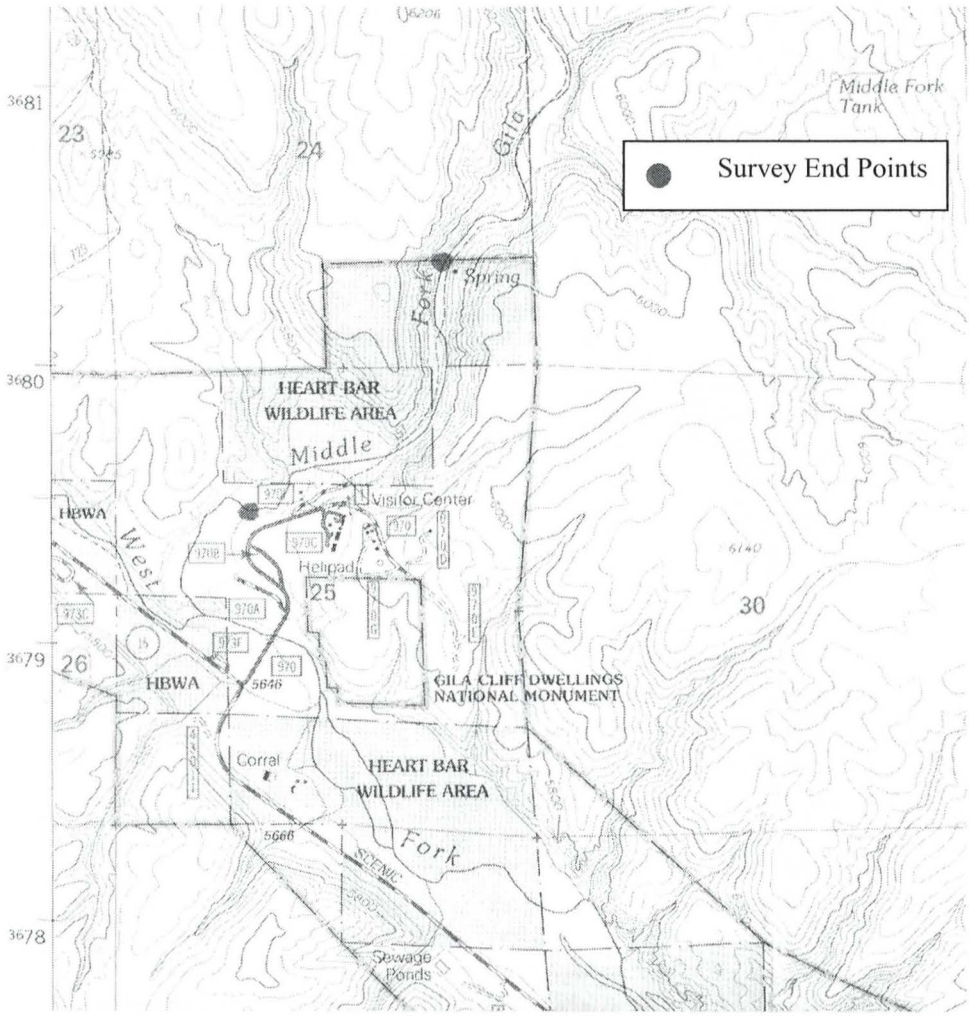

Figure 12. Gila River, Middle Fork Site: Route (black line) for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) surveys conducted 25 May through 13 July 2007. Aerial photograph dated 14 September 2005.

Figure 13. Exotic tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.) is beginning to spread along the Gila River, at the Middle Fork Site, Catron County, New Mexico, particularly near the hot springs. (Photograph by H. Walker.)

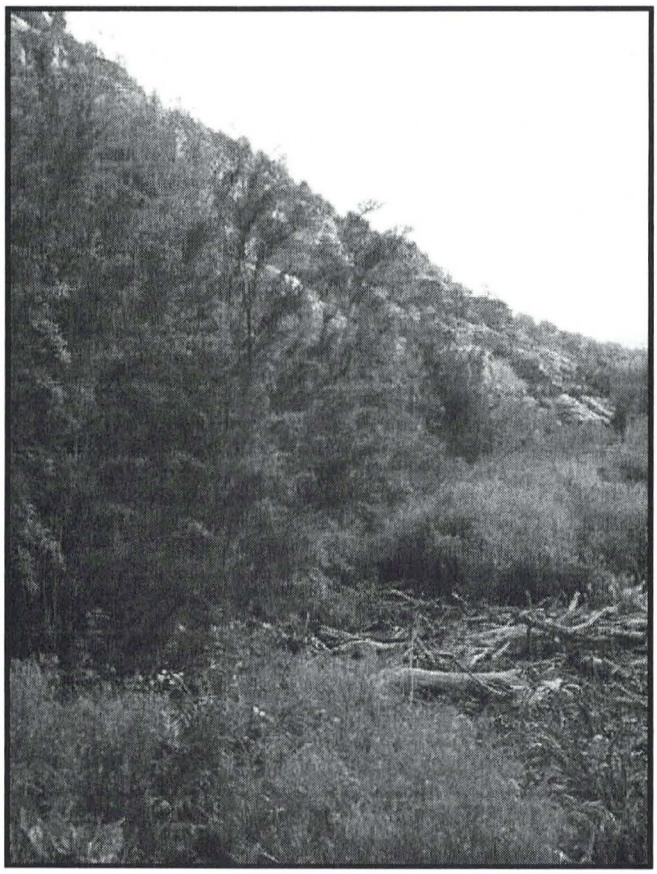

Figure 14. Vegetation suitable for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) at the Middle Fork Site, Catron County, New Mexico is primarily willow-boxelder (*Salix-Acer negundo*) vegetation at the beginning of the survey route (left photograph), and willow-alder (*Salix-Alnus oblongifolia*) vegetation near the hot springs (right photograph). (Photographs by H. Walker.)

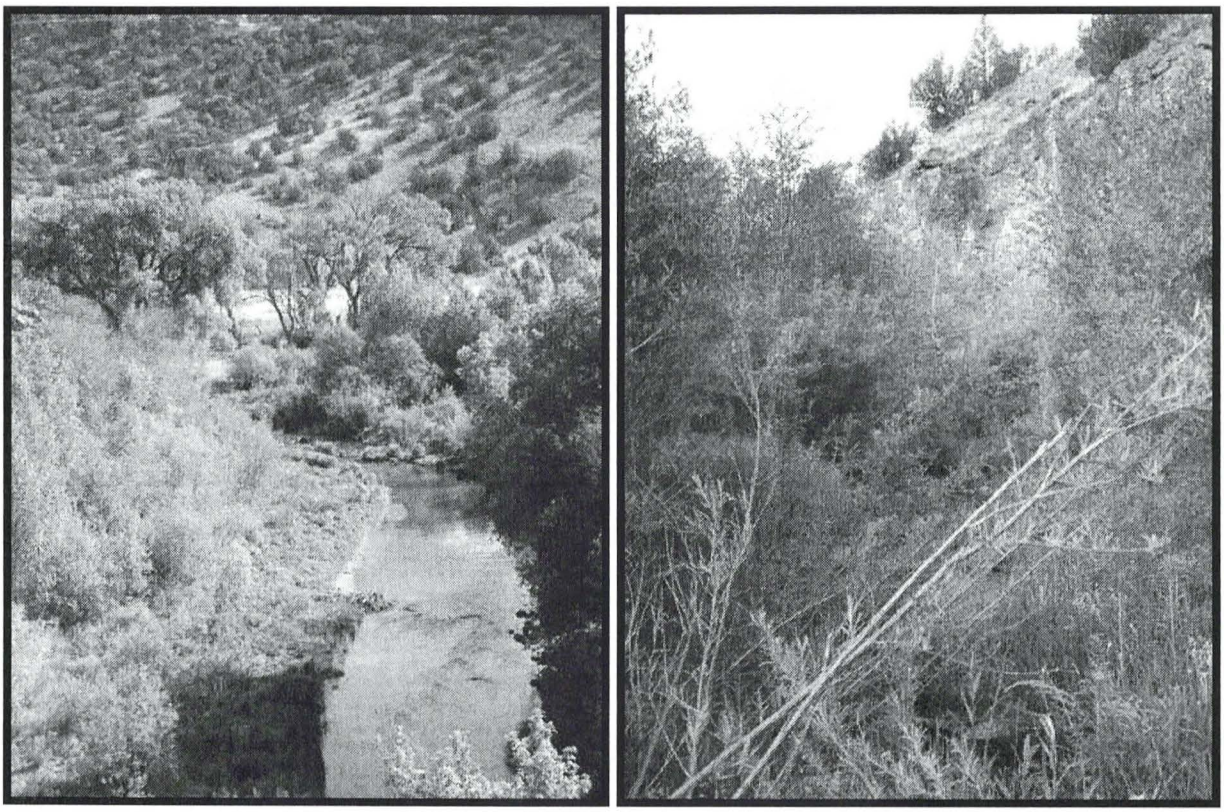

Figure 15. A pair of Southwestern Willow Flycatchers (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and their nest were located on 6 June 2007 along Whitewater Creek, on Los Olmos property, adjacent to the Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site, Catron County, New Mexico. (Photographs by H. Walker.)

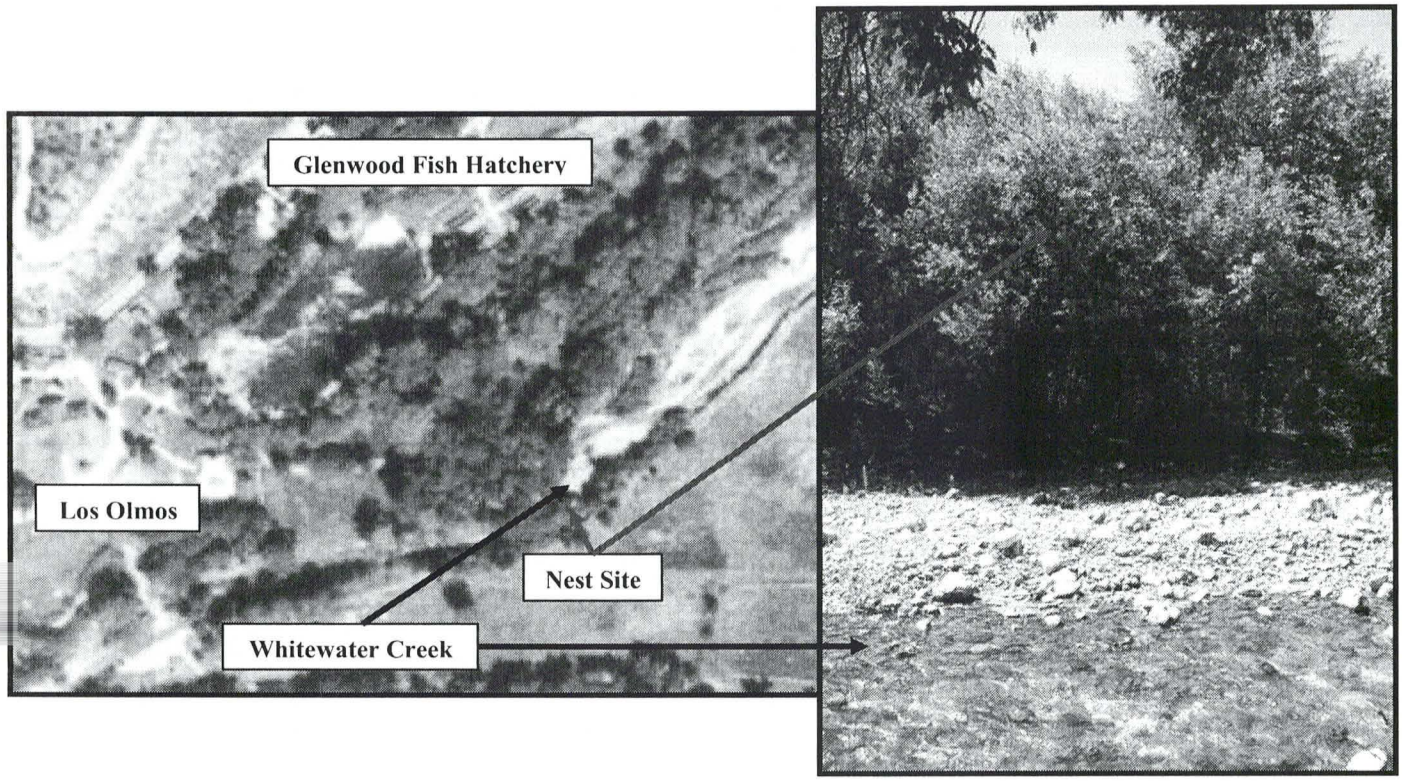

Figure 16. A Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) nest was found adjacent to the Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site, Catron County, New Mexico on 6 June 2007, 5 m from water and 4 m up in a mid-aged willow (*Salix*) (top photographs). The male was observed 'fitz-bewing' from his perch, while the female was observed at the nest and appeared to be adding nesting material (bottom left photographs). An old potential flycatcher nest was located 5 m away (bottom right photograph) (Photographs by H. Walker.)

Figure 17. A Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) nest (top photograph) with 4 chat and 1 Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) eggs (bottom photograph) was found at the Glenwood Fish Hatchery Site, Catron County, New Mexico on 6 June 2007. The chat nest was within 16 m of the Hatchery 1 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) nest (Photographs by H. Walker.)

Figure 18. Four Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) nests (numbered 1-4) found at the Keller Canyon Site, Catron County, New Mexico were located on 7 June and 11 July 2007 along a 50-m stretch of the west bank of the San Francisco River (top and middle photographs). The approximately 17-m wide strip of riparian vegetation was comprised of a thick groundcover of grasses, young to mid-aged boxelder (*Acer negundo*), and mature willow (*Salix*) (bottom photographs). (Photographs by H. Walker.)

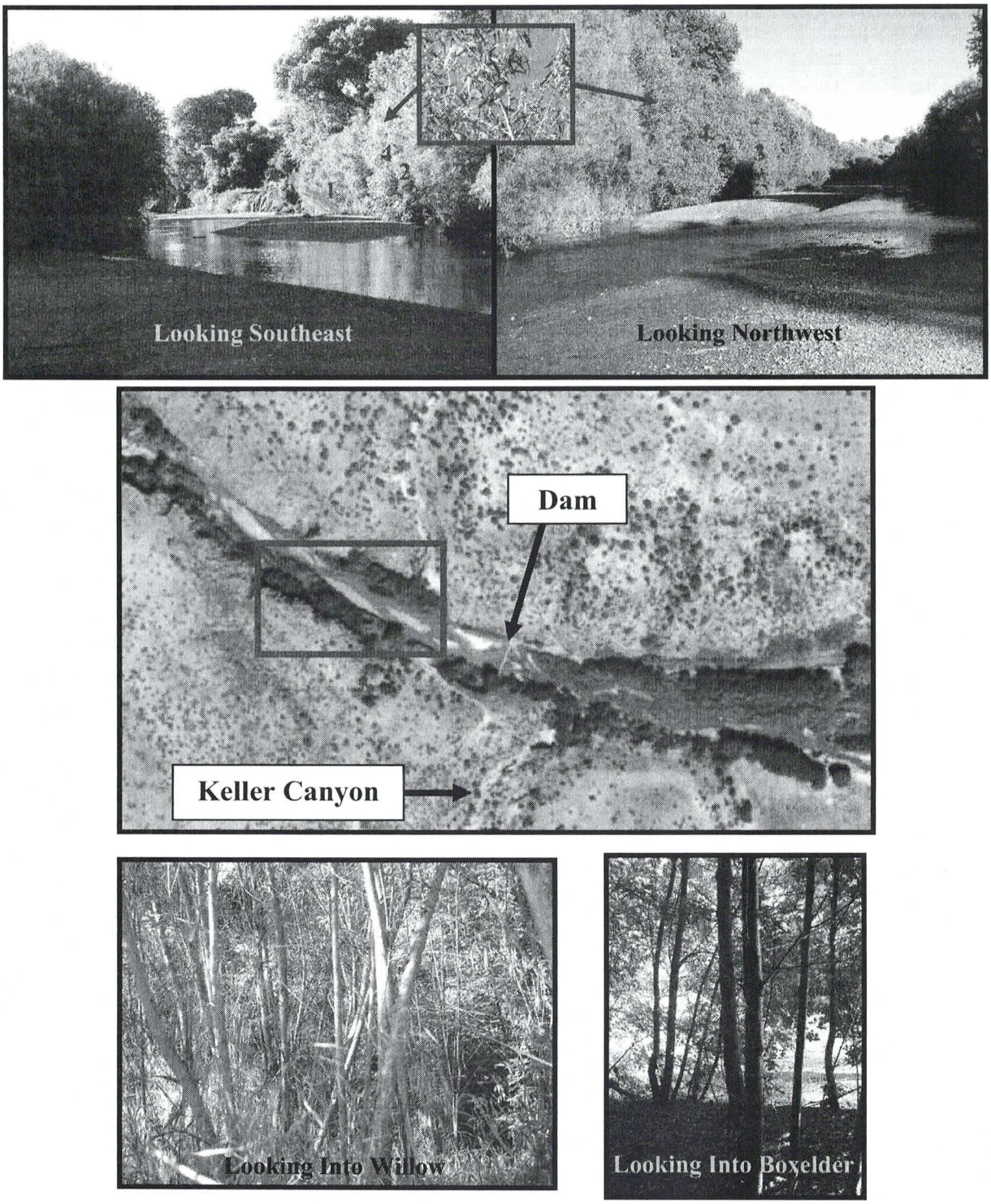

Figure 19. The first Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) nest to be found on 7 June 2007 at the Keller Canyon Site, Catron County, New Mexico was located approximately 3 m from water and 2 m up in a young boxelder (*Acer negundo*) (top photograph). The nest contained four flycatcher eggs (bottom photograph). (Photographs by H. Walker.)

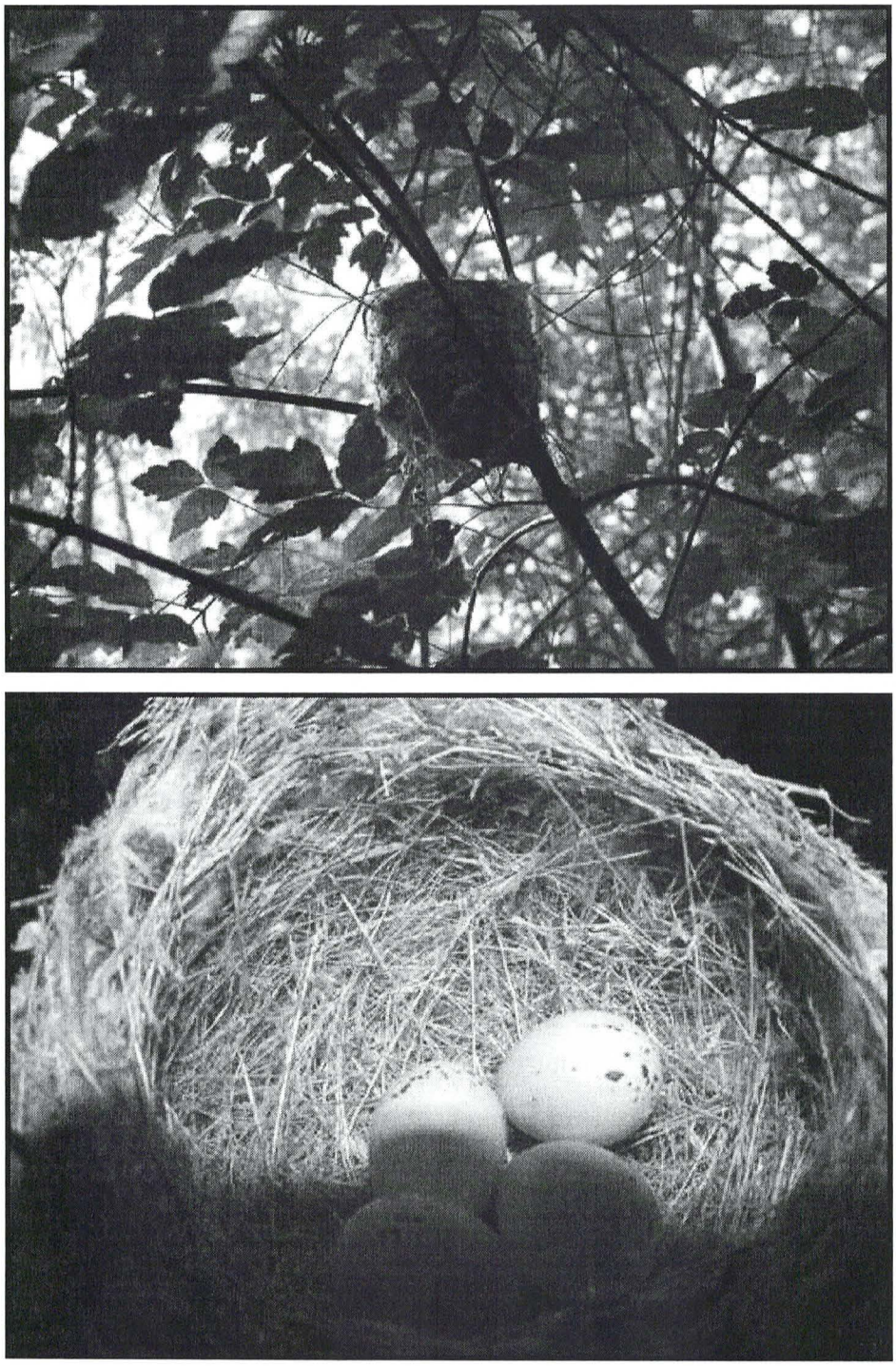

Figure 20. The second Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) nest to be found on 7 June 2007 at the Keller Canyon Site, Catron County, New Mexico was located approximately 1 m from water, and 3 m up in a young boxelder (*Acer negundo*) (top photographs). The female was observed at the nest and appeared to be adding nesting material (bottom left photograph). An old nest (likely from the 2006 breeding season) was found 1 m away (bottom right photograph). (Photographs by H. Walker.)

Figure 21. The third Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) nest to be found on 7 June 2007 at the Keller Canyon Site, Catron County, New Mexico was located approximately 7 m from water and 5.5 m up in a mature willow (possibly *Salix irrorata*) (top photograph). An old nest (likely from the 2006 breeding season) was found 1 m away (bottom photograph). (Photographs by H. Walker.)